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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

April 7, 2003

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

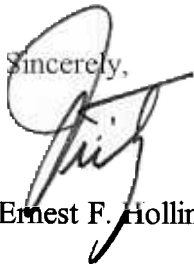
Dear John:

Following our conversation last week, I appreciate your willingness to hold a hearing on media consolidation. As you know, the Federal Communications Commission is currently conducting a broad rulemaking required by the 1996 Telecommunications Act, that could result in significant changes to virtually all of the FCC's media ownership limits in the newspaper, radio, broadcast and cable industries.

In light of Chairman Powell's recent announcement that the FCC will conclude its review of media ownership rules by June 2, it is critical that the Committee be permitted to discuss these issues with the Commissioners prior to their decision. Given the importance of these proceedings and limited time remaining before the Commission's expected order, I would urge you to schedule a hearing as soon as possible following the Easter recess and invite all five FCC commissioners to testify so that we may discuss matters related to this proceeding in a public forum. Such a hearing will not only afford Members with the opportunity to explore the options under consideration, but, more importantly, will permit frank discussion about the impact of potential rule changes on the core values of competition, diversity, and localism that are fundamental to serving the public interest.

Again, I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Ernest F. Hollings